

## TYPEWRITING MACHINES FOR RECORDING DEEDS, ETC.

JULY 1, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BABCOCK, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4717.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4717) authorizing the use of typewriting machines for the recording of deeds and other instruments of writing in the office of the recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia, report the bill back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

The object of the bill is to allow the recording of deeds and other instruments of writing by the recorder of the District of Columbia with book typewriting machines, instead of by the slow, and oftentimes illegible, methods of pen transcriptions, if he desires to do so.

The recorder of deeds claims that, under the provisions of an old Maryland law applicable to the District, all deeds and instruments of writing must be recorded in a "strong, legible hand," and therefore deeds can not be recorded by him with a typewriting machine.

The recorder of deeds further claims that he is prohibited from purchasing typewriters, whether it will facilitate the work of his office or not, by the law of 1892, which provides—

That the recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia shall not, after December thirty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, retain of the fees and emoluments of his office for his personal compensation, over and above his necessary clerk hire and the incidental expenses of his office, a sum exceeding four thousand dollars a year, or exceeding that rate for any time less than a year; and the surplus of such fees and emoluments shall be paid into the Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia.

He does not think that the purchase of typewriters would come within "the incidental expenses of his office."

The book typewriter, it is claimed, writes one-third more to the line than can be written with a pen, and writes twice as many lines to the page; and, therefore, insures a saving of 50 per cent in books and an equal saving in vault room. It is an established fact that the typewriter is much more rapid than the pen, and that typewriting is much more legible, and therefore much easier to read.

The durability of the ink used by these typewriting machines for permanent records has been established. A thorough analysis was made by Prof. Charles E. Munroe (of the Columbian University) of the ink with which a certain brand of ribbon is impregnated. He says in his report:

From my analysis I have found that the ink with which the Lion Brand E. & H. Black Record typewriter ribbon is impregnated was a printers' ink of the compo-

sition described above, and consequently the records made with it must be permanent (p. 2).

As a consequence of the examination and tests described at length above, the results of which are shown in the appended exhibits, I give it as my opinion that the records made with the "Lion Brand E. & H. Black Record typewriter ribbon" are much more durable than those made with fluid inks in common use for pen writing, and that they are as durable as "printed" records (p. 6).

The laws of Congress, by a concurrent resolution of both Houses of Congress adopted November 1, 1893, are now engrossed or printed on parchment with printers' ink instead of pen and ink, as had been the custom from the foundation of the Government. The ink used by the book typewriter, being printers' ink, is as durable and permanent as the ink with which the laws of Congress are printed.

Book typewriters are extensively used in the offices of recorders and registers throughout the country, especially in the city of New York, where there are now 100 book typewriters used for recording deeds. They are also in operation in the Government Departments in the city of Washington and in commercial houses throughout the country.

A copy of the petition to the recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia, signed by the leading real-estate brokers and title-insurance companies, and lawyers, including the district attorney, praying the substitution of typewriting for pen work in keeping the records of his office, is given below.

Hon. HENRY P. CHEATHAM,  
*Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia:*

We, the undersigned members of the District bar, or persons otherwise professionally interested in the work of your office, respectfully petition you to give your consideration to the advisability of substituting typewriting for pen work in keeping the records of your office. In other cities, notably in New York, the real-estate records are kept in typewriting by the use of a book typewriter.

Name.	Business.	Name.	Business.
Myron M. Parker.....	Real-estate broker.....	J. Spalding Flannery ..	Attorney at law.
Nathaniel Carusi.....	Secretary District Title Insurance Co.	Elijah V. Brookshire...	Do.
Henry E. Davis.....	District attorney.....	John J. Dolan.....	Do.
Eugene Carusi.....	President District Title Insurance Co.	Jesse W. Rawlings.....	Do.
Bernard H. Johnson...	Real-estate broker.....	W. Mosby Williams...	Do.
Chapin Brown.....	Attorney at law.....	J. H. Ralston.....	Real-estate broker.
Wm. J. Miller.....	Do.	Edward B. Kimball....	Attorney at law.
Watson J. Newton.....	Do.	Chas. G. Mortimer.....	Do.
T. Percy Meyers.....	Do.	E. B. McCowan.....	Do.
L. Cabell Williamson..	Do.	Fred. McKee.....	Do.
Percy Metzger.....	Do.	B. Stanley Simmons....	Do.
Malcolm Hufty.....	Do.	Herbert M. Locke.....	Do.
Edward S. McCalmont..	Do.	Leo Simmons.....	Do.
Oliver C. Hine.....	Do.	Peyton Gordon.....	Do.
Milton C. Barnard.....	Do.	James F. Scaggs.....	Do.
Judson T. Cull.....	Do.	John P. Saffell.....	Do.
Jesse H. Wilson.....	Do.	Geo. H. O'Connor.....	Do.
Geo. E. Fleming.....	Treasurer Real Estate Title Insurance Co.	Wm. D. Hoover.....	Do.
Mahlon Ashford.....	Attorney at law.	Mason N. Richardson..	Do.
William A. Gordon.....	Vice-president Columbia Title Insurance Co.	Lorenzo A. Bailey.....	Do.
W. E. Edmonston.....	President Columbia Title Insurance Co.	J. A. Maedel.....	Do.
R. O. Holtzman.....	Real-estate broker.	James J. Becker.....	Do.
Tyler & Rutherford...	Do.	Wolf & Rosenberg.....	Do.
William Henry Davis..	Attorney at law.	S. M. Yeatman.....	Do.
		John J. Hemphill.....	Do.
		P. J. Ryan.....	Do.
		J. S. Barker.....	Do.
		H. N. Low.....	Do.
		Gasch Bros.....	Real-estate brokers.